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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

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[Unattributed report: "Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles"]

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, the speaker of the Majles conveyed his condolences to the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, Engineer Gharazi on the occasion of the death of Dr. Seyyed Abolfazl Gharazi, head of the Social Security Organization.

According to a report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item on the agenda of this session was further discussion on the report from the finance and economy commission titled: "Rejection of the Plan To Call the Mellat Bank [People's Bank] Farhangiyan Bank [Teachers' Bank]. Following discussions on the issue, the plan was rejected by the Majles.

The Majles will have another open session tomorrow morning.

Rahmatollah Rahmati, Qomsheh and Shahreza Deputy

The position announced by the president at the ICO heads of state summit is an illustration of the imam's ideals in realizing the Muslims' glory.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Rahmatollah Rahmati from the Qomsheh and Shahreza constituency.

He said: Expressing the truth that the great Islamic ummah of Iran was insisting on defending its dignity, religion, territorial integrity, and revolutionary identity was very bitter for the aggressors. The day when the world of heresy saw the savage invasion of the Iraqi Ba'thists furthering its own goals, it undertook a huge but futile effort to hide the truth.

Even though this was known to the innocent people of Iran, because of their own pure nature, the people were keen to make the truth clear to all those affected by the propaganda machines of the Islamic revolution's enemies. This is why the announcement that Saddam was the aggressor was a huge victory for the people and for the Islamic Republic. This is especially true because the acceptance of Saddam as the aggressor will open the way for other parts of the Resolution to be implemented.

The speaker then talked about the steadfast position and historic speech given by the president of the Islamic Republic at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] heads of state summit. The speech outlined the Islamic revolution's stance and outlined the path toward realizing the ideals of the Islamic ummah throughout the world. He praised the president and said: What was said at this summit by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was along the same lines as the Tehran conference in support of the Palestinian people's Islamic revolution and in opposition to the Madrid peace conference. This position exists in the body of our revolution and it indicates our sensitivity toward all issues in the Islamic world. The position announced by the president was an illustration of the ideals of the Imam in realizing the glory of Muslims throughout the world.

He continued by talking about an article printed in the KAR VA KARGAR [Work and Worker] newspaper, quoting the Central Bank governor. He said: Dr. 'Adeli thought the labor law was a trick and thought the coordination of payment of salaries was a political move. This position should be questioned on several points.

First of all, the labor law is a law that was drawn up by the Ministry of Labor, approved by the cabinet, and finally ratified by the Majles. After the respected Council of Guardians found some faults in it, it was referred to the Expediency Discernment Council, which passed it after slight alternations. The respected president, at one Friday prayer, considered this labor law as a point of pride for the government and the Majles. The same thing applies to the bill to coordinate the payment of salaries which was drawn up by the government, ratified by the Majles, and approved by the respected Council of Guardians. So Mr. 'Adeli should reconsider his statement again to understand the meaning of his sentence.

Mr. 'Adeli, if the capitalist world is your ideal, then review this from various angles. Today, management theories operating in the capitalist world have discovered that one of the most effective ways of achieving the goals of an organization is to pay special attention to its manpower. The Majles and the Expediency Discernment Council do not play tricks. This is a mistake that has come about as a result of the differences that exist between your line of thought and the line of thought that exists in the Majles. We say that economic policies cannot be drawn up in such a way that in implementing them, we have to pass over the corpses of a large group of people with low income or those with a fixed income. The labor law and the law coordinating the payment of salaries have been prepared in such a way that they will carry the still-living bodies of workers and white-collar workers through the waves created by your financial policies to your shores.

What I say in this regard is not because I feel animosity toward anyone. But on the other hand, it is not as if I have no identity of my own either. What I am asking is why do you consider yourself to be wise and all the top organs of the country to be stupid or tricky? Is it not the case that to achieve economic balance, alongside the right price for goods, we have to achieve the right sort of income as well? Is it not true that the two bills follow this same policy and nothing more? Have you thought about what would happen if people accepted your views? What

would happen to the other laws and promises made by the officials and what will be the consequences?

Good and wise management dictates that we should provide what our work force needs. We must use their power and their thoughts to pursue the ideals of the regime.

He added: While undertaking economic activity of the sort that we see in our country today, until such time that we achieve the perfect situation, we must support the vulnerable classes. Of course, there is no doubt that the only solution is not just to increase salaries for the low-income groups. If other economic aspects are not taken into consideration, this could even have damaging effects. I now emphasize the examples mentioned many times by officials and by the Majles.

The slogan of getting rid of middlemen has been mentioned many times. Middlemen are named as the main culprits for rising prices, lower production, promotion of commissions, and false employment. To combat this, it has been suggested that there should be chain stores, more plentiful cooperatives, and more production. But unfortunately, no serious work has so far been done in this regard, even though this is something that has been mentioned in the five-year-plan.

The other issue is price controls and continued government supervision over prices. Nearly all systems of government, even those which enjoy economic balance, see the necessity of price controls and regard this as inevitable.

He added: Another social group that has to be protected is the needy and the poor. Because of the Islamic revolution, we now have organizations that take care of this important matter and each of these organizations does valuable work and is worthy of praise. Despite this, none of them provide a dignified answer to the needs of the poor. The number of such organizations and similar responsibilities have created a situation where a large amount of money is spent on expenses, providing facilities and the considerable manpower that they need to carry out their tasks.

He stressed: I believe that if these organizations were gathered into one body, it would be possible to provide, in a dignified manner, for those who really have no way of earning a living. By providing facilities such as education, providing raw materials, animal husbandry, and export permits, they can be given jobs.

Hoseyn Harati, Sabzevar Deputy

It is everyone's duty to safeguard the boundaries of the holy organization of the Council of Guardians, which provides the legitimacy of all the achievements of the legislative arm of the regime.

Hoseyn Harati was the second pre-agenda speaker. He greeted the innocent spirit of the founder of the Islamic republic, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the martyr-nurturing people and congratulated them on the great victory of the brave Iranian people during eight years of holy defense.

He then said: Thanks and greetings to God for the exciting, revolutionary, and anti-aggressor speech given by our great president, which illustrated the charter of freedom for the ICO and allowed them to continue working.

The speaker also remembered the anniversary of Dr. Moffateh's martyrdom and the Week of Unity between Students and the Clergy. He told religious students: The heretics of the past regime saw that their military bases filled with deadly weapons were impotent when confronting centers of learning, so they launched their attacks against the "turban." They wanted to crush the brains and they plunged knives through hearts so that they could drive love and belief out of those hearts. They threw bodies in prison so that they could makes slaves out of humans. They broke pens so that they would not write religious edicts. They raised knives and cut tongues so that they would not mention God's name. They wanted to silence cries for justice and they burnt pulpits so that no one would be able to tell the theory of Imam Husayn and his innocence. They banished the source of emulation for Muslims so that justice could also be banished. But little did they know "Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, God refuses but to perfect his light, though the unbelievers be averse" [Koranic verse in Arabic].

Harati continued his speech by talking about the successes of the five-year-plan. He said: Every once in a while someone asks whether or not the five-year-plan has been a success. How much of its goals have been achieved? As a member of the plan and budget commission I was involved in its planning and later, in various stages of its implementation. I say that the program has had relative success which is a hopeful sign. It has achieved valuable success in 10 areas by: (1) Increasing production; (2) Controlling the budget deficit; (3) Making the executive budget more healthy through a considerable increase in welfare spending; (4) Attracting public trust in the banking system; (5) Correcting the currency regulations; (6) Controlling population growth; (7) Considerably increasing the income tax; (8) Removing some useless regulations; (9) Raising general interest in investment from the public; (10) Improving management.

It is necessary to note that since this is the first experience with a plan in the Islamic Republic, it is normal to expect that it would have a series of shortcomings and weaknesses in some areas. These include increased spending on consumer goods, incomplete plan fulfillment in the area of non-oil exports, and increased amounts of cash in circulation. At this time, I seriously suggest that in order to achieve the plan's goals during what is left of this year and in future years, we must work to take steps in three areas.

A. Reduce levels or at least provide a stable level of spending on consumer goods, which has seen a worrying growth of 37 percent during the years of the plan.

B. Prevent the amount of cash in circulation from increasing. There should be an effort to direct this surplus cash toward production because one of the biggest destructive economic ills in any society is this high level of cash in circulation. This has even overshadowed increased production in society and has ruined the effects of increased production. The experiences in Latin American countries such as Chile, Brazil, and others demonstrates the principle that even though they have had increasing production in many areas, the huge amount of cash in circulation has not been brought under control. This has meant that all the points gained as a result of increased production have been devoured by the cash in circulation. On the other hand, in Eastern countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia, where they have had increased production and have managed to bring the cash under control, they have achieved great success and they have managed to improve their economy.

C. Provide special attention to national determination.

He added: We must point out the bright future of the plan for society so that the people can feel that even though they have great difficulties now, by tolerating such hardships during the next two plans, these problems will be resolved. While production and employment levels will go up, the flames of high prices and inflation will die down. The second point is that the place and role of each individual have to be clearly mapped out in order to realize the programs set out by the plan. These roles must be promoted as a national and religious duty and be given top priority. I believe firmly that, God forbid, if this plan does not work, because of work slow-downs, lack of coordination, factionalism, and comfort-seeking attitudes, then there will be no hope at all for correction of the economy in the future. This, despite the great good fortune of having a brave, able manager for president with deep political, social, and economic understanding and a cabinet that is experienced and has the benefit of 13 years' experience behind it.

The five-year-plan has been a success in terms of increasing production, controlling the budget deficit, making the budget more healthy, correcting hard currency regulations, and increasing income tax.

The speaker added: It is everyone's duty today to strengthen and support the president who bravely and sympathetically stepped into this arena to save the country's economy, who is bearing the enormous responsibility of its weight on his shoulders so that we may be free of dependence on the East and the West, so that we can achieve self-sufficiency and independence.

In another section of his speech, the deputy from Sabzevar recognized that it is the absolute right of the Council of Guardians to interpret the Constitution. He said: The holy organizations of the Islamic Republic are linked to one another like a chain. They are like streams and rivers which eventually form the sea.

To respect them and to hold them dear is a mission for the public in order to safeguard the Islamic revolution. This is especially true for a great and holy organization such as the Council of Guardians, since the legitimacy of all the achievements of the legislative arm of the regime depends on Council approval. I do not believe that we should feel sorry for the members of the Council. We respect them and value the boundary of their responsibility. This is especially true because the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of our affairs has announced that it is the natural right of those dear people to interpret. But if this interpretation causes one faction to be removed from the political arena, the leader will reject this. In addition, his excellency said that if such a movement were to take place he would personally stand against it and would not permit it. With this sort of firm and clear stance from the great leader, there is no room for further discussion.

In another section of his speech, Harati defended the interior minister and added: My last point is to defend an innocent person, who is our worthy and great brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Nuri, the interior minister. Unfortunately, in the past few weeks some things have been said against him. I know him as a result of the time we spent together during the second Majles in the plan and budget commission. I think I know him deeply and closely. I am also familiar with his work in the Majles and the Ministry of Interior. With due respect to other interior ministers, I recognize his term as minister to be the brightest period during the 13-year history of the revolution at the Ministry of Interior. He is clearly a manager, logical, full of principle, and a planner. He was there when there was no revolutionary fervor nor the fervor of a war and holy defense to help him out. It seems that any period after a long war is the most difficult period to run a country. He has run the Ministry of Interior with patience and wisdom, and with a keen eye as to what is best for society. He is not only a powerful minister and a capable manager, he is also a thinker and a philosopher. His logical discussions in the council that reviewed the Constitution and his political, social, and economic views in the cabinet have all made him a worthy thinker. Those who know him well are fully aware that he has all three Islamic qualities: piety, knowledge, and a will for crusade. For his character, it is enough that at one time he was chosen by the departed Imam to be both his representative at the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] and the Reconstruction Crusade, and he carried out both tasks capably. His bright record at the Ministry of Interior during his short term there includes the merging of the security forces, the implementation of the sensitive law dealing with political boundaries, choosing worthy governors general, looking after several hundred thousand refugees from Iraq, looking into the afairs of millions of earthquake and flood victims throughout the country, and the capable management of the country's political affairs. All these things point to his worthiness and his wisdom.

Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, Dehloran Deputy

The deputy from Dehloran asks the officials to compensate for the damage caused by floods in Darreh Shahr.

Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, the deputy from Dehloran, was the third pre-agenda speaker, who used three minutes left of the time given to the deputy from Miyandoab.

He congratulated the great leader, the heroic people, and the respected families of martyrs on Iran's major political victory. He added: To thank the efforts and truth-seeking of the UN secretary general and to encourage this worthy method throughout the world in the future, I suggest to the Ministry of Interior and Tehran municipality to name a Tehran street after Mr. de Cuellar.

He continued his short speech by talking of the recent flood in Darreh Shahr. This town has a hard-working and religious population. During the holy defense, they formed the first groups to be sent to the fronts. They have had an active role in all issues of the Islamic revolution. For example, they have had a 128 percent increase in literacy, thus achieving first place in Ilam Province. Unfortunately, this terrible flood has martyred more than 12 people and more are missing. Some 60 percent of the housing and 100 percent of the town's shops have been destroyed. Hundreds of hectares of agricultural land have also been destroyed and hundreds of cattle are dead. The damage is estimated at more than 6 billion rials.

The deputy from Dehloran continued by asking the great leader to give special help and financial assistance to Ilam Province and the town of Darreh Shahr.

He also asked the Ministry of Commerce to give one round of rationing coupons for emergency use and supplies for the people of this flood-stricken town.

The speaker added: I expect the respected president to announce a delay in the repayment of loans taken by the farmers and traders of Darreh Shahr.

Ha'eri asked the Ministry of Agriculture to provide quick payment for damage caused to the crops and cattle, the Ministry of Commerce to provide for the basic needs of the people, as well as building materials, and the Ministry of Interior to give funds for clean-up operations in the public areas of Darreh Shahr.

Assadollah Tabe', Miyandoab Deputy

If we give up everything, we must not give up our unity.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Assadollah Tabe', the deputy from Miyandoab, Takab, and Shahin-dej. In his speech he commented on the great victory of the brave people of Iran during eight years of holy defense and added: It took eight years of holy and dignified defense on the battlefields and three years of sacrifice, effort, and resistance in the political arenas of the world. Finally, the UN secretary General bowed his head toward the glory and power of this unified people who seek God. By recognizing the Ba'thist regime of Iraq as the aggressor against Iran, he proved the innocence and just position of the Iranian people to the whole world.

The dignified people of Iran know that this huge victory was achieved without fear because there was not one inch of territory still in the enemy's hands and not one penny would have to be paid in war damages to the belittled enemy. The most important and historic speech of the respected president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during the Islamic conference in Senegal represented the tongues of the oppressed in the Islamic world. It breathed new life into the souls of Palestinian fighters. The speech was in the hearts of most of the participants and healed the wounds of those in pain. The speech was the result of the unity and the oneness among all Iranians.

We must therefore bring our hearts together. We must empty our souls of revenge and hard feelings and fill them instead with God's light, Koranic spirituality, love and kindness inspired by the family of the Prophet (peace be unto them). That way we will be able to defend our revolution in all international forums.

Assadollah Tabe' commented on filthy U.S. crimes throughout the world and continued: We must have an iron will. By following the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic world, we must belittle the enemy in the region. We regard ourselves as followers of the Prophet and his family (peace be unto them) and the defenders of the red path of martyrdom. We think of ourselves as executors of God's will and followers of the departed Imam.

We must stand as one united Islamic ummah in the ranks of friendship and honesty to face the sworn enemies of Islam and the Muslims. We will continue life under the command of Ayatollah Khamene'i so that future generations will be proud of having fathers and mothers such as us, and they will use our actions as their models to follow and emulate. They must know that it is the will of the people that has always destroyed superpowers, and that will has always been possible to achieve in the shadow of unity. They must know that in other societies even holy leaders have had difficulties when trying to reach their goals. They suffered and worried and perhaps have not achieved things the way they would have liked. But some 14 centuries have now passed since the start of Islam. There have been events during World War I and World War II for the allies and others since then. In the Persian Gulf war, the United States formed an evil coalition with the forces of heresy and put itself in control in the Persian Gulf region. We have learned our lesson from this and even if we lose everything we have, we must not lose our unity. We must make every possible effort to safeguard this unity since it is the secret of success.

The deputy from Miyandoab talked about the problems of fuel in his constituency and said: I request that the

respected petroleum minister order the delivery of fuel for towns in the southern sections of Western Azerbaijan Province, especially Miyandoab, Shahin-dej, and Takab, to include kerosene, natural gas, paraffin, oil, and motor oil. So far, in the past few months, the patient people have not even managed to obtain fuel through rationing cards. The population is living in a state of pessimism over their own future. Something should be done quickly. The people's fate must not be played with in this manner, otherwise the unpleasant consequences will affect everyone.

He continued his speech by talking about the locals' resistance in the face of terrorist groups and said:

In speaking about these defenders of the faith, it is enough only to say that these people were the first to hold prayers of unity. They formed a council of clerics made up of Shiite and Sunni clergy so that the counterrevolutionaries would not be able to use the opportunity to cause dissent among Muslims in the region. To talk of their iron will it is enough to say that, in December 1981, when the district governor was taken hostage by the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party and their friends, on the road between Guy Aghaj and Chuplo, all the town's people decided that they were going to rescue the district governor who was the government's political representative in the region. This is because the martyr-nurturing people of Takab considered this to be an act of shame for them. With amazing bravery in minus 20 degree weather, they followed the group for a week and went through snow-covered hills and valleys for more than 100 km. They gave several martyrs to God and finally managed to tighten their circle around the group in the village of Bashablagh near Saqqez. After killing the terrorists, they rescued the district governor and several others and returned them to their families. Where have you in history seen this sacrifice? The roads in and out of Takab toward Orumiyeh were mined by the Kurdish Democratic Party for four years so officials decided to provide fuel through the Qazvin road, and this was no problem for Western Azerbaijan Province. But the official in charge of fuel in the province has not even visited Takab because he knew people would ask him questions. Instead of solving the fuel shortage, he has ordered that fuel for the town should not be delivered as before and should be decreased. The same thing was done once in 1989 by the head of the oil company in Miyando'ab. The road between Takab and Shahin-dej is often closed because of snow, so fuel delivery was late and several people died because of the cold. What this man has done now is no better than what was done in 1989. God is witness, as are the brave people of Iran, that those people who do not have correct political, social, and security information on the region, who order fuel to be cut from a cold region like Takab, are the guilty ones. Mr. Aqazadeh, respected petroleum minister, these people have withstood so much and have defended the interests of the revolution. God knows that were it not for Takab, the counterrevolutionaries would have gone as far as Zanjan. Is it fair that they should be treated this way?

17 Dec

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[Unattributed report: "Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles"]

[Excerpt] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

Pur-Mohammadi-Fallah, Astaneh Ashrafiyeh Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker was 'Ali Pur-Mohammadi-Fallah from the Astaneh Ashrafiyeh constituency.

He expressed his congratulations on the Islamic Republic of Iran's recent political victory with the UN secretary general's recognition of Iraq as the aggressor in the imposed war. He spoke about the anniversary of the martyrdom of the symbol of unity between the clerics and the universities, Dr. Moffateh. He said: Islam's enemies thought that by the physical assassination of the links between the theological centers and the universities they could separate these two elements. But thanks to the leadership of the departed imam, they did not achieve their goals. If anything, the blood of the likes of Mottahari and Moffateh nurtured this union so that it grew stronger. God willing, under the imam-like leadership of the leader of the revolution, this bond will grow ever stronger.

The theological centers carry out research into events and stories from the beginnings of Islam and bring the guidance offered by the Prophet and his followers into today's context. They direct the universities in their research in all fields of knowledge and learning. The theological centers have accepted with open arms questions, complaints, and suggestions put forward by university students, which indicates their youthful spirit. The centers are patient and tolerant and guide them in a fatherly fashion. Those great men who act as links have a high degree of patience and sensitivity and they turn yesterday's darkness into light.

He continued: We are now approaching the 1992 budget. The respected deputies must remember that the timetable for adopting a budget and our own internal regulations concerning discussions on the budget do not allow much time to make many changes and to investigate all suggestions. On the other hand, a one-sided attitude in writing a budget has previously brought about some injustices, and to resolve these would also require a lot of time. I ask that we remember our oaths and pay careful attention to suggestions made, disregarding factional considerations. The interests of the country must be taken into account, and we must vote for what is right and just.

He asked the president to choose the minister in charge of cooperatives from the ranks of those people who believe in the principles of a budget for cooperatives,

who have worked for years in cooperatives so that the affairs of this sector can be organized. There should also be plans to gather the country's forces, and especially manpower, which is one of the difficulties in the country.

Eliyas Hazrati, Rasht Deputy

Eliyas Hazrati, from the Rasht constituency, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He talked about the bravery during the imposed war and said: The martyrs are waiting at a feast given by God to see when justice will be done. The blood of innocent people will never be wasted. Those on earth are still waiting for the promise of God.

He added: The admission by the United Nations and its secretary general that Iraq was the aggressor shows that the day is here for the disgrace of those who refused to heed our cry. It indicates that right will always prevail. The United Nations proved that it took 10 years to denounce Iraq as the aggressor, despite the fact that there were innumerable reasons for doing so.

If from the start of the war the international community had announced this truth and if it had carried out its duty with regard to the aggressor, the war would not have lasted eight years. The Kuwaiti invasion would not have taken place, and the Persian Gulf war would not have come about. This issue is one of thousands that prove the impotence of the United Nations and the international community and their lack of independence with regard to the role they should have in the world. In any case, this admission multiplies the duties of the United Nations a thousand times. Without a doubt, the next stage must be the implementation of the rest of Resolution 598. This means paying reparations for the damage caused by this aggression and punishment for the aggressor. With such actions, perhaps the United Nations can gain some respect among the peoples of the world.

Hazrati continued his speech by commenting on the anniversary of the martyrdom of that symbol of unity between clerics and students, Ayatollah Dr. Moffateh. He said: There have been discussions about this basic principle for many years. The imam made an effort in this regard and achieved considerable success in bringing the theological centers closer to the universities, which are two basic pillars of this regime. But despite this success, there are still obstacles which must be removed.

He added: In order to find the most correct and appropriate way to solve the executive problems in the Islamic regime, to have proper planning in the face of an all-out onslaught by world heresy, the true believers in the pure Islam of the Prophet realize that the unity between the clerics and the universities is essential. According to the great leader, this is not a tactical unity but rather a lost jewel which must be found.

The future of the Islamic revolution and the realization of all its goals depend on the unity between the theological center and the university.

He added: This vital responsibility has so far not been assigned to anyone in particular, although steps have been taken by groups from both the centers and the universities. But none of these groups feel themselves to be responsible for carrying out this duty. This is why planning for this important factor has not been assigned to anyone. Under such conditions, we cannot expect anyone to take serious measures. This is why we cannot ask anyone to present a list of activities in this regard. If this situation continues we shall not have better conditions in the future.

There is still no proper plan for this important issue. So far, the speeches of the wise clerics and university people have not gone beyond occasional suggestions, which have not been presented within the framework of a comprehensive program. The respected president recently announced: "The lack of unity between the theological centers and universities is due to the absence of a proper method."

Since the success of the revolution, the clergy have had a greater presence in the universities, either as professors, or in the offices of the leader's representatives, or in other capacities. But despite their physical presence, there has been less attention to the clerics' cultural presence. If the clerics' physical presence opened the way to their cultural presence, it would be a useful step toward unity between the theological centers and the universities.

He continued: In both sectors—the university students and the clergy—there are elements that cause dissent and pessimism. This is because they do not believe in the other side and consider them an element that prevents growth and what is really in the interest of society. To achieve unity would mean getting rid of such elements. In his last will and testament, the Imam advised clergymen and theology students to guide those causing dissent with their words and deeds. He said that if this was ineffective, the person should be isolated. If a teacher were found to be seeking to cause dissent, he should be guided; and if that is not possible, he should be kept away from the class and the students.

Improper social aspects and rash confrontations on the political scene are also among the factors that damage unity, so to speak of unity between the clergy and the students, without each side having a chance to express its views, is also a waste of time. We can only hope to attain unity if "the young people do not believe that they can get by without the guidance of clerics dedicated to Islam." On the other hand, the clergy must listen to what students have to say with open ears. If they deviate, the clerics have to use the kindest words to guide them back to Islam's path. Their spiritual emotions and feelings cannot be ignored and their writings must not immediately be regarded as deviant and wrong. Instead of shouting at them or being angry, treat them in a fatherly manner. The great teachers and the respected clergy are of course aware that the love of justice, the Koran, and Islam is alive in the hearts of thousands of university

students. Young people are ready to accept religious truths. We can quench the thirst for religious truth with patience, the right methods, strong logic, powerful thinking, and correct behavior.

As for the bill amending direct taxation, Hazrati said: There is Footnote Number Seven to the five-year plan and the need to encourage investment for production purposes and production centers. In order to support the low-income classes and to expand the sources of tax revenue so as to lessen the pressure on existing resources, the government presented a bill to the Majles to amend direct taxation. The finance and economy commission spent dozens of hours in discussions and detailed expert advice. God willing, we will soon see this in an open session of the Majles for a second round of discussions.

We hope this will be a step to support the groups in society on fixed incomes and we hope that it will help lessen the pressures on existing resources and provide encouragement for investment in production projects.

He added: The respected Majles and the commission will enter into the budget debate with full force. Deputies must be reminded to keep in mind the importance of universities and the problems facing the education sector. The budget announced by the government cannot resolve those issues. For example, in the town of Rasht most of the schools are old and are rented property. If this problem is not resolved soon, this town, which is one of the first in Iran to have a school, one of the towns with the highest levels of literacy, will face the huge catastrophe of a shortage of school buildings. There are universities in Gilan Province with excellent teachers and about 5,000 active and intelligent students. They are still in old buildings rented from the Navy. Each year after several rounds of arguments these buildings are rented for another period of 12 months.

He concluded by asking the deputies to keep these points in mind when passing a budget.

Mohammad Hasan Nabavi, Bushehr Deputy

By implementing other sections of Resolution 598 the United Nations will take special steps toward the realization of justice.

Mohammad Hasan Nabavi, the deputy from Bushehr, was the third pre-agenda speaker who talked about the UN secretary general's declaring the Ba'thist Iraqi regime an aggressor. He said: Our dignified and great people are still grateful for the UN Secretary General's action even though it was delayed so long for no reason. But both the United Nations and Saddam's supporters should know that our free and honorable people have tolerated the worst kind of cruelty and the most bitter innocence in order to remain free and because they did not want to bow their heads to the Eastern or the Western superpowers. This cruelty went so far that they announced the aggressive enemy as legitimate and unaggressive to the world and spoke of our innocent people and our violated country as the aggressors.

He continued: The United Nations, by introducing the aggressor, by implementing other sections of Security Council Resolution 598, should take special steps to ensure that justice is carried out.

The deputy from Bushehr talked about the effective presence of the president at the Senegal conference and added: The presence of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic, gave meaning to the summit. His presence meant that the summit of heads of state for once deserved that name and, unlike previous times, it had a goal and a purpose. In the past, the conference was often superficial, devoid of content, and without clear, constructive, and profitable goals. It would bear no results for Islamic nations or Muslims and it would end with no clear result. Friends were not particularly happy with its outcome and it did not cause enemies any concern either. The speeches were often warm but, because they did not reach the people's hearts, they were ineffective. If the speaker does not believe in what he is saying himself, his audience is not going to believe him either. The historic speech given at the ICO summit by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president, presented a complete charter and guidelines for all aspects of political, religious, cultural, economic, and social matters. The reports filed by the world's mass media on the speech and the analysis offered by social and political analysts indicates the deep effects of the speech throughout the world. It indicates the attention paid to the speech by the world's Muslims and the worried looks received from the aggressors and Zionists.

The speaker continued by asking researchers to analyze the various segments of the speech made by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the ICO summit.

In another section of his speech Mohammad Hasan Nabavi thanked the manager of the water organization in Fars Province and all other officials who have worked night and day to provide water for the town of Bushehr.

He expressed the hope that the project to provide water for Bushehr would be finished by the Ten Days of Dawn celebrations in February.

The deputy from Bushehr complained about the Plan and Budget Organization and said: Why has the Plan and Budget Organization removed from its list credits put aside for the building of hospitals for which a budget has been allocated for the past three years, which have gone through all the proper procedures in the Majles, and many of which are about to be completed? Is the organization aware of the consequences of its actions? It would have been better had it informed the representatives of the people before making decisions.

Mohammad-Baqer Baqeri-Nejadiyanfar, Kazerun Deputy

It would be better if legal use of land for housing and industry and the right to harvest crops from agricultural lands were allowed to replace uncontrolled ownership.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad-Baqer Baqeri-Nejadiyanfar, the deputy from Kazerun. At the beginning of his speech, he talked about the Day of Unity between the theological centers and the universities:

Our enemies have invested a great deal in separting these two holy organs to cause dissent between the clerics and the students, and they will continue to do so. From the beginning of the movement until his flight toward God, our departed Imam was acutely aware of the need to strengthen the unity between these two sectors which are so important for Islam, the revolution, and the people. A Muslim student must recognize a theological student as his own kind, but in clerical clothing. Theologicial students must also accept ordinary students as one of them but in plain clothes.

He continued: Both sectors have holy and lofty aspirations to crusade for God, both are one spirit in two birds for the ummah. Martyr Mofatteh had both qualities and his martyrdom became a day of God, a symbol for perpetual unity between the cleric and the student. I ask the press to print a booklet of lessons from the ideology of Imam Sadeq (peace be unto him and his family) written by martyr Mofatteh. If God is willing, the spark of love for God will come alive in the souls of all people, especially students and clerics, so that they may find the secret of happiness in both worlds.

The speaker then said: You are all aware of the sensitivity shown by Imam 'Ali (peace be unto him and his family) to cruelty toward one Jew who was living under the protection of an Islamic regime. Even more than that, he would not tolerate the taking of a single grain out of an ant's mouth, if it were done by force. How is it then that a legal representative ruling in an Islamic regime is removed from his position because of one small sin and one small violation toward another Muslim, but representatives of the legal authority and leader and their friends have permission from somewhere and someone to commit thousands of small and large crimes against old and young people who have nobody to turn to except God. Yet despite all this, they are not removed from the absolute rule of the legal authority. There have been those who, before the revolution and afterward, only wanted money and titles. They did not have the courage to obey the Imam when facing minor groups or elements of the past regime. Like bats, they used to shun light. They sheltered under the umbrella of certain gentlemen to mount an attack on the pillars of the revolution. They used the regime as a barricade and they launched an evil attack on the mountain of patience, resistance, and sacrifice of the most dedicated fighters in the path of God. They now make futile efforts to show the bright and clean past records of Hezbollah and other forerunners in a bad light. It seems they have no mission other than evil. Unfortunately, officials fall short of persuing and punishing such elements. But the faithful have witnessed God's special attention and kindness many times and have foiled the plots, turning back on the culprits their own poisoned arrows. If God is willing, this will continue.

In another section of his speech, the deputy from Kazerun said: Several weeks ago we saw the result of inadequate care and attention and carelessness by doctors and other hospital personnel in Fars and Tehran which ended in the martydom of a brave soldier, a commander on the warfronts of love and sacrifice, a spiritual child of the Imam and a friend to the Mobilization, brother Mohammad Hoseyn Shirafkan. The disorganized state of health care means that each day we see a family losing its breadwinner, leaving parents to mourn their children. Perhaps if the situation was not like this we would not have lost in Esfahan several days ago our dedicated brother Dr. Qarazi, who worked so hard for the revolution and the oppressed. I ask the Martyrs' Foundation and the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificers to issue special cards for the disabled, the POW's, and the children of martyrs, and those who need special care and treatment. They should get doctors in hospitals and all appropriate organizations to make their utmost effort and show their dedication and treat these sacrificers, reminders or our martyrs and friends and supporters of the Imam and the leader, as a matter of priority using all facilities available in order to safeguard their health.

Baqeri-Najadiyanfar talked about the Majles elections and said:

I ask the three powers, especially the respected Ministry of Interior, the Majles, and the respected Council of Guardians to use the valuable experience gained after the revolution as well as international experience in elections. These should be held within the framework of pure Islamic values during all the stages in such a way that most of the people who qualify, would get a chance to participate. That way there will be no violations against the people's votes, and the Imam's guidelines will have been implemented. If God is willing, those deputies who are truly the best and strongest backbone of the regime, the people, and the international Islamic movement in favor of the oppressed, will get into the Majles.

The deputy from Kazerun said that in our ideology, God owns everything and everyone, that humans are only caretakers. He added: There has been a lot of abuse of land which is not always put to the best possible use. It would be better to have a legal right for conditional use of land for housing and industry and the conditional right to use agricultural land, rather than having uncontrolled ownership of these lands. These types of ownership ruin society's ecoomics and take up God's land. We should use international experience, within the framework of pure Islam, and solve the problem of land in the best possible way.

I ask the three powers to mobilize revolutionary organizations and other bodies, especially universities, theological centers, and volunteers to implement Article 49 of the Constitution in a deep, widespread, and all-out crusade. Otherwise, each day that this is delayed, it will be very hard to make up for losses, and internal and external corrupt elements will deliver more deadly blows against the revolution, the regime, and Islam.

He concluded: In Islam we say that those who give and accept bribes will burn in hellfire. If bribery goes on the way it is going at present, in the not too distant future we shall see the regime collapse on the heads of the people and their officials.

We should confront this destructive evil in a basic way to uproot it with a proper plan of action. [passage omitted]

25 Dec

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[Unattributed report: "Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles"]

[Excerpt] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—An open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, engineer Gholamreza Shafe'i, former minister of industries, was introduced to the Majles to obtain a vote of confidence for the post of minister in charge of cooperatives. The text of the president's letter on this matter was printed in the previous edition of this newspaper.

Mohammed Salamati, Tehran Deputy

Our defense capability must be strengthened using sophisticated equipment.

Mohammed Salamati, the deputy from Tehran, was the first pre-agenda speaker.

He said: The important issue that concerns most countries in the world in general, and Islamic Iran in particular, is the claim by the criminal United States to be world leader.

The criminal United States currently feels that in military terms it is left without a rival in the world. So it is trying to maintain this advantage in reality. The second point is that it is using this weapon to threaten other nations and to obtain what it wants.

The United States claims to be getting rid of tension throughout the world, but in fact it is causing tension in various countries by its actions and provocations. The plot hatched by that country in the Soviet Union has in fact upset world peace and is going so far as to take that country to the edge of a cliff. Of course, we must not be scared by U.S. power, but rather we must confront its crazy and egotistical moves which have worried even its friends. We must first of all stress the need to strengthen our defense capability using the latest equipment, and we must also revive popular defense tactics. The second point is that we must take steps to coordinate and cooperate in a serious manner with those countries whose interests are being threatened by the United States. They must also be encouraged to undertake such actions. We must not allow the Americans to continue their bullying tactics to achieve their inhuman goals.

The deputy from Tehran added: Not only does the Great Satan use military means to gain control, but also economic ones. According to a report from U.S. President Bush to that country's Congress, it is in the interest of the United States to promote a market and a free economy in all countries of the world. This is because continued weakness in the U.S. economy and recession has made that country unable to withstand competition from developed nations such as Japan and Germany. This is why it has had a huge budget deficit for several yers as well as a trade deficit.

It therefore has no choice but to compete and use trade with developing and underdeveloped countries in the world. This is also the reason why, in order to impose a market economy, it is using everything it has in its control, including international organizations such as the IMF and the World Bank, to achieve its goals.

The United States shows determination in this field and will settle for nothing short of a complete merger of the entire world's economy into the economic machine of the West, the economic dependence of other nations, liberated economies and the free movement of capital, complete observance of competition in foreign trade and other aspects which comprise the basic principles of a market economy. In the Soviet Union, economic reforms were first launched to reorganize socialism. But the United States used its influence and set preconditions for aid from international organizations and other countries. It gradually took things so far that Soviet leaders changed their goals to implement a market economy, despite the fact that they do not have the necessary management conditions or social and economic makeup. This has therefore caused production to slow down or stop, and in the final analysis it has brought about the Soviet Union's bankruptcy.

Continued U.S. plots have brought about not only the destruction of the Soviet Union, but have also brought disgrace and disappointment as well as the loss of security and national pride which the Soviet people once had. The United States has yet to leave those people alone, and this is the result of the treason committed by their leaders. Were we to judge with optimism, they could be accused of not paying attention to the real needs of society and not understanding real truths. They took action without thinking or planning and did not accept the guidance of anyone else. In this connection, it is interesting to note that in his letter to Gorbachev, the Imam wrote: "Your problem is not economic, your problem is your lack of belief in God." But Gorbachev did not pay attention to that important factor and this is why he made the mistakes which he has since admitted.

He added: After the downfall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, imperialism and Zionist propaganda focused on an open economy, claiming that it is good. This propaganda and pressure that comes from international organizations under U.S. control has caused some countries to want to give in to U.S. demands. Of course, the result is problems such as

inflation, lower production, and socio-political issues in these nations. They now have to paint a bright picture of the future to fool their people.

If a market economy was the tool which was able to solve all problems, many countries in the world would have taken it up by now and would have been enjoying good economic and social progress. But it is obvious to all that this is not the case. Even some countries in Europe which are members of the EEC, like Greece, Portugal, and Spain, do not have advanced economies.

Unfortunately, an economy unique to Islam was not put forward in our country by the experts, therefore some technocrats have accepted the market economy as the best way for the country's finances to flourish. There are now some responsible people who are promoting this and are attempting to implement it, even though it is quite against the Constitution and the first five-year plan for economic, social, and cultural growth in the Islamic Republic. This is the biggest danger to the country's economy because adopting this act would be like returning to the capitalist system that existed here before the revolution, only it would be more out of control.

This is why I am asking top officials in the country to show adequate sensitivity toward this important issue. Of course, those responsible should be aware that changing the economic system does not rely solely on their votes, but it seems that it may even require a public referendum. The second point is that the defeat of communism should not necessarily prove that capitalism is right. We should not bring back what the revolution aimed to destroy. Even more important, we must not allow ourselves to fall into the wide trap that the United States has laid for us.

Mohammad Salamati added: It seems that the biggest economic problem in the country at present is that of making a decision on this very issue. Usually in such conditions, it is expected that political groups would use everything in their power to analyze the issue and to give definite suggestions on how to resolve the problem.

But unfortunately, the political factions do not have adequate, coordinated, and organized political party formations or work experience. Therefore, they do not have the ability to review the situation in an all-encompassing way to render logical conclusions or basic solutions to the problem.

This is considered to be a big weakness for society, so serious steps have to be taken to resolve the issue. That way we will be able to use best the dedicated forces in the country. Therefore, the country's top officials are expected to support group formations and encourage people toward this goal. A void left by political parties and groups usually drags original and innovative people to lesser tasks in society. This is the reason why the mistakes and shortcomings of organizations in the country do not come under careful and serious examination, and even if they do, there is no overall support. It is possible that gradually this will lead to deviation or weakness.

Competition during a period of reconstruction must be in the area of giving plans and programs for construction in society. Unfortunately, fractional work has mainly had a destructive and intimidating tone thus far.

For example, elections for the Fourth Majles are drawing near. A special faction claims to have a larger share of power. They should show sensitivity to the economic, social, and political problems in society. They should present plans in this regard and should make an effort to gain the help of all forces in society. Instead of trying to improve the political and social situation, to maintain tranquillity, to achieve goals set out by Islam and the revolution, and to lessen the vulnerability of the nation in the face of U.S. plots, they try to tarnish the image of effective forces in society, using un-Islamic means. They therefore use any excuse to cause tension in an unprecedented manner and seek to maintain a turbulent political atmosphere.

It seems that this faction has nothing to say other than to swear at those who criticize their actions. The smallest criticism from sympathetic people brings out the labels, the insults, and efforts to fabricate a case against people. Unfortunately, this has had an unpleasant effect on society and if it continues, it will get worse.

The deputy from Tehran added: One of the damaging aspects of this type of confrontation is that it has promoted sycophancy in society. This has turned those who could show initiative and promote growth in society, under proper conditions, into sycophantic and characterless people who just repeat factional cliches. These elements will no longer bother to look into issues in a responsible manner or to present solutions. This is a catastrophe that will have unpleasant consequences in the future.

Salamati added: Even worse, this situation has caused some people who have views and characters of their own to stay away and not present those views due to the current unpleasant atmosphere. This is in spite of their own positive beliefs and interpretations regarding truths and realities about some officials and their programs. They stay quiet so that their views would not be regarded as sycophantic. More important, the political characters of people who are regarded as national treasures are not used to resolve economic and social problems in the current poisonous atmosphere. They either stay stagnant or else they take an unnecessary path. This is another damaging blow to our basic movement, which prevents social growth. Therefore, I, as a simple servant, ask all existing political forces in the country to strengthen our Islamic homeland's revolutionary resistance in the face of plots hatched by the Great Satan, the United States. That way factional competition will be geared toward presenting practical solutions to solve the country's

problems. They should not allow liberal ideas put forth by those who have lost their identity or by technocrats to pave the way for aggressors to gain influence in society.

Abol-Hasan Ha'erizadeh, Birjand Deputy

Writing on walls that "Un-Islamic dress presents itself for sale" is wrong and is nonsense.

Seyyed Abol-Hasan Ha'erizadeh, the deputy from Birjand, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He said: First of all I would like to mention the important trip that Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the respected Majles speaker, made to China and Yemen, especially when Mr. Karrubi himself placed such importance on the trip. China's importance in the new world order is obvious because of the position it can assume with regard to helping unity among Third World nations. This trip was one of the most important in the revolutionary period. Yemen is a Muslim friendly nation, and having relations with it is very important and sensitive. Mr. Karrubi himself evaluated the trip as very good. Some of his colleagues who had gone along were also positive and eager about the trip's outcome.

Ha'erizadeh continued by speaking about the week to commemorate the unity between the theological centers and the universities. He added: The position of the universities is very sensitive. There must be a reconsideration in the selection of some clergy who have been chosen for the universities, in terms of their characters and behavior.

On the other hand, there is not too much contact between the theological centers and universities. There is only talk of it each year during this period. Most educated people and university types do not visit the theological centers and they have little contact with the student clerics. These relations and contacts have to be more frequent and more close. At this sensitive time when we need unity between the universities and theological centers, there must be a sincere effort. The formation of government-sponsored groups, called new Islamic associations or new graduates or whatever, do nothing for universities and lead nowhere. They only separate the government from the universities even further. There must be an atmosphere of free thought in universities. Organized groups that have been formed in accordance with a set pattern based upon orders must be kept away from universities. They should not be allowed to multiply like mushrooms. This upsets the situation of Islamic students on university campuses and truly causes dissent. Forming these pre-ordered government-sponsored groups to act as guardians for students on campuses is a very ugly and unpleasant thing and completely upsets the situation in universities. Because most of our universities have their roots in our revolution, we cannot say that these universities are in the same situation as in the previous regime. The students in these universities and many of those in management positions in these universities have taken much from the revolution during these past 12 years. The universities have to be treated in a delicate manner and not according to some cliches.

In another section of his speech, he said: In the 1992 budget the income from oil sales has been predicted at $19 billion. Keeping in mind that Iraq and Kuwait will enter the market and Saudi Arabia is not bound by OPEC, this figure will not be achieved. We must not raise the ceiling of income with no concrete reason, because various organizations will then allocate money which they will not have. Then important things will be left undone and the country will face problems.

The budget predicts that $2 billion more than what has been stated in the plan will have to be borrowed, which is dangerous. Taking out a loan has only been permitted in the last year of the five-year-plan. Paying back loans is more expensive. They will charge more for insurance and the foreigners always charge heavy interest rates on these loans. For plans that last five years or more, this can reach up to 100 percent.

The deputy from Birjand said a prediction of $1.8 billion pre-sales in oil is against the plan and $210 million for the sale of gas to the Soviet Union and another $630 for services are unrealistic.

He added: There is about $6.3 billion extra in the hard currency budget which is impossible to obtain. Next year, some experts are predicting that we will have some $6 to $7 billion worth of loans and interests on loans which have to be paid out. These are for purchases that were made on credit in one form or another. There are also other current expenditures in the country. Many of the plans have yet to come to fruition. Various organizations should not open the doors any further and they should not allow too many deals to be made. The Central Bank and the management of the government as a whole do not have the power to predict the internal situation in the country. Last year they obtained credit worth $34 billion, and this year we could not even pay for necessities. As priorities have changed completely, how can we set controls on foreign deals? We must act in a very precise manner so that we do not come into a position like that of Brazil or other countries which are deeply in debt and are not even able to pay for their necessities. Those countries now have to follow others' policies. The commission must not view things only in terms of sectors. The ministers all predict high income and, based on this, predict high spending. Most of our ministers do not think in a comprehensive manner at all and see only their own sectors. Our commisions are the same. They too think in terms of sectors, whereas they should see the whole. We are all responsible. We ratify these things so the Majles is responsible, whether we are for or against a plan. We are all working in this regime and we all like this regime. We all believe in it and we do not want there to be problems later on.

He added: Various organizations have asked for 8 trillion rials more than what is in the budget. Either their demands are not very realistic or else they are realistic and have not been implemented. In any case, both of these situations are wrong. When ministers in the country do not think in a comprehensive way and only think in terms of their own sectors, each minister will think in terms of grabbing things from here and there. What sort of situation will that bring about? What will the people in the lower sectors do?

Ha'erizadeh criticized the fact that income from the stock market and Kish Island are not included in the budget.

He continued: The situation of women in our society is very unpleasant. Our treatment of women does not match the way we talk about her holiness Fatimah.

The role of women in society is superficial. There are a few articles, a few discussions, and some speeches. In reality, in terms of society's law and in terms of family matters, women live in deprivation. We still do not have organized bodies to support the family and women. On the other hand, when we want to launch a campaign for women we write a bunch of nonsense on the walls like: "Women who do not wear Islamic clothing present themselves for sale." Is it not true that nonsense like that is considered to be an insult in Islam? What does it mean, "Women in improper clothing present themselves for sale?" Hezbollahis from Tehran say this and that. These types of confrontations have to be handled in a very logical, wise, and aware manner. To insult and show disrespect to a woman with improper clothing will not cause women to flourish.

Many of our men are still anti-female. This means that when they are confronted with the issue, their thinking is anti-woman. Women's rights and women's economic independence in the family are not being observed.

He stressed: One of the important issues today is that we must get the help of all our social forces. In addition to women, there are many cases where even the men, let alone women, are treated unfairly. There are pressure groups who throw around all sorts of insults to remove opposing forces with different political and ideological views. They have the microphones in their hands and many of the mosques are under their control. This is a very dangerous move. Those who have the propaganda machinery in their hands now should show their worth and power to be masters. Various people are being trampled, forces who have served the revolution and have worked hard. Dragging them through filth by distributing night letters and so forth—the Ministry of Intelligence is responsible for all of this. If a night letter is distributed against a Majles deputy, the Ministry of Intelligence is responsible. Either it is not aware and is unable, which is not the case, or else it is able and is remaining quiet, in which case it brings itself into question.

Mohammad-Baqer Zakeri, Quchan Deputy

We should not disturb society's peace just to obtain more votes from the people.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad-Baqer Zakeri from Quchan constituency.

He expressed his congratulations over Iran's recent political victory and said: Our duty and our thanks mean that on the one hand we should always remember the Imam's memory and name with fondness. We should consider his actions and guidelines as our role models and we should sincerely support the jurisconsult. While presenting constructive criticism and pointing out mistakes to officials, we should in principle support them. We must not follow blindly anything that any official says or decides, and at the same time we must allow others to criticize. Even if one day our personal and factional interests dictate that we should lash out at any official, we should not do so—as is happening during the election campaign for the Fourth Majles.

He added: With the war coming to an end, we must not forget those who for eight years kept the fronts busy and never failed to sacrifice. There is one issue that is truly worrying, which prevents us from gaining peace of mind. It is the situation of the disabled who, despite having a disabled body which is the most obvious proof of their sacrifice, have for one reason or another not been able to get the right documents. This has meant that the percentage of their disability has been designated lower than what it should be. On the other hand, there are those whose designated disability percentage is higher than it should be. Therefore, it is proper for the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificers and the Oppressed to pay adequate attention to such issues.

In another section of his speech, he criticized the designation of martyrs into first, second, and third degrees by the Martyrs Foundation. He said it was up to the officials to support the volunteer forces and not to rely on mere slogans on special occasions.

Zakeri continued: As we get closer to the elections for the Fourth Majles, the analyses, predictions, and demands of political analysts and the different factions inside and outside the country have been proven wrong. These wrong ideas were brought about because the founder of the Islamic Republic is not present during the elections, because of the Council of Guardian's interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution, and because of the conditions and changes that have occured in the world.

So it is up to all responsible, including the Council of Guardians, the Ministry of Interior, and all others directly or indirectly involved with the elections, plus the candidates and their supporters, to respect the law, the limits of the people's liberty, and the value of the people's votes. They must prove from now on that they want to gain the people's votes in order to be able to serve them and not, God forbid, to gain a name or power or a job through any means, whether right or wrong.

If our goal is to please God and serve the people, which is what it should be, then insulting opponents, playing tricks, using empty slogans with no guarantees, giving impossible promises, using illegal propaganda methods that are not honest, using public funds and government facilities under any pretext of so-called campaigning, must be seriously avoided.

He concluded: We must know that the people are well aware of our intentions, expressed in fiery speeches. They know if we are screaming just to get votes, or if we seriously want to discuss their problems. We must also know that the people know whether or not we are worthy enough to run for the next Majles, having judged our actions in the past three and a half years that we have served as deputies. This is why we must not disturb the peace in the community just to obtain more votes. During the next few months, we should not bring this or that person under question every day.

Comments by the Majles Speaker

After the pre-agenda speeches, Mr. Karrubi gave a speech expressing his congratulations on the birth of Jesus Christ (peace be unto him and his family) the worthy Prophet of the Christians throughout the world, the Prophet of light and mercy, peace, struggle against sin, heresy, cruelty and aggression. He conveyed his greetings to all those who believe in God, especially our Christian compatriots and their representatives in the Majles.

He then expressed the hope that in the light of the life-giving teachings and guidelines of Jesus Christ (peace be unto him and his family) freedom-loving Christians and the true followers of Jesus Christ (peace be unto him and his family) would carry out their duty. They should stand firm against cruelty, unfairness, and aggression in order to create real peace in the world.

In another section of his speech, the speaker of the Majles conveyed his greetings on the occasion of the birth anniversary of her holiness Zahra (peace be unto her and her family), Womens Week, and the birth anniversary of the Imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited). He added: Whenever the Prophet (peace be unto him and his family) came back from a trip or a battle, he first used to visit Zahra (peace be unto her and her family). She was a child who was much praised by the Prophet (peace be unto him and his family). He said about her: "If anyone bothers her, they are bothering me and as a consequence, bothering God," which is against the religion. This great lady brought up children who became leaders and then gave their lives in the path of dear Islam. They kept the tradition of the Prophet (peace be unto him and his family) alive with their holy blood. This lady defended the realms of the land and the leadership and after her short but glorious life much of her great work has remained behind.

Mr. Karrubi talked about the presence of women in Islamic society and said: Women were involved in politics, social issues, and in the family during the starting days of Islam. This indicates the truth of the matter, which is that women must play out their huge and vital role in society. They should carry out their duties, aware of their mission and responsibility.

It is up to us to give them scope so that they can achieve true growth as desired by dear Islam. We must fight against reactionary ideas, and the women in our society must be present on the scene. The dear Imam stressed this issue many times, saying that women's role in the revolution and the people's movement was no less than the men's, in fact it was more. Women provided support for the men in their struggle against aggression and the cruel regime of the Shah. Now, we have many extraordinary women who are standing as firm as rocks in the path of God, defending Islamic values and their Imam's ideals.

Mr. Karrubi concluded by saying that he hoped women would become more involved so that we can put forth an exemplary Islamic society. He said: That way we can have practical and active propaganda to confront the poison spread by the enemies who try to distort the truth. We have to present a complete example of women's talents, which have yet to be used, to show the world the proper way to use the talents and power of women. We have to demonstrate the proper way, as opposed to what the aggressive Western world of heresy has created through sacrificing the value and dignity of women to the whims and interests of capitalists.

The Minab Deputy's Reply to the Bandar 'Abbas Deputy

Mostafa Zolqadr spoke in reply to the comments made earlier in the month by 'Abbas 'Abbasi, the deputy from Bandar 'Abbas, in accordance with Article 77 of the Majles internal regulations. He said: My speech in the Majles was aimed at defending the holy image of a regime whose founder was the departed Imam, led by the great leader of the revolution, student of the Imam, Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i. [title as published]

He continued: Is it fair to shower insults on a deputy who was issuing a reply to those who painted a dark and ugly picture of the regime's rule in a very large and sensitive area of the country? They have filled the province with rumors, quoting me as saying that we have complete security in Hormozgan Province. I tried in my speech to warn and advise officials on security issues in Hormozgan Province. I asked the respected minister of interior to look into the issue. I also issued a reply to false accusations and attacks made against some faithful officials. I would like to remind those in the Majles and in Hormozgan Province, who have trampled on all morals and the religious principles of God's justice—just to gain a position or for the sake of their own and their group's political interests—that these worldly titles pass quickly and have no value. It is not worth their while to insult and make false accusations against a representative of the people who has devoted his whole life to Islam and the poor, who has made a tremendous effort to help the

poor, needy, religious, and Hezbollah elements in Hormozgan Province. You should know that only God can give greatness or belittlement. If you manage to create suspicion in the minds of some people, for a few days and with the help of propaganda, be sure that the truth will be revealed. The people know who serves them well. I will never be willing to fool the people just to attract votes. I have said and will say nothing but the truth from the microphones of the Majles and my philosophy on being a deputy is no more than that.

Zolqadr said: If we are to ruin other people's dignity by being mean and nasty, then what is the difference between us Muslims and other people? Mr. 'Abbasi, a people who listen to the speeches given in the Majles and who listen to the news on the radio and television know what you say about the minister of interior. You say that he is neither a manager nor is he wise. Then several days later, we hear you quote the great leader of the revolution saying that thank God the respected minister of interior is a religious, wise, knowledgeable, and an intelligent person full of good qualities.

Should we listen to you or to the great leader? All these things are because of the elections. You want to change the governor general because he will not do as you tell him. I will remind you that the people choose deputies. Why do you want to weaken the governor general? Changing the governor general has nothing to do with you. Then what do we have a minister of interior for? What are the president or the cabinet for? If we had a situation where each Majles deputy was able to change a governor general, there would be chaos. Your aim is to rule by yourself as opposed to having the rule of the Islamic Republic. Your discussion is not about who is weak and who is strong. Everyone knows that Mr. Torkan, who is the country's minister of defense at the moment, is trusted by the respected president and the great leader. According to everyone's admission, he is one of the strongest executive officials in the country. The people of Hormozgan Province know who it was that was causing obstructions for him and who beat his chosen mayor to the point of death. The tape of your provocative speeches is available. Who was it that told Mr. Nuri, who was then minister of interior, that if Mr. Torkan comes back to Bandar 'Abbas, we will shed blood? Who was it that ordered 35 innocent people from a village in Minab to be thrown in jail for holding a religious dirge? The people all know who it was that once said that if someone was seen with two packets of tea in his hand, he should be shot. At the same time, some well-known people handled smuggled tea and other smuggled items, and there are documents to prove this. You attack the governor general over the issue of security in Bandar 'Abbas. Then why do you not go to the Supreme National Security Council to ask for facilities? What governor general would not want security for his province? You are afraid to go to high officials in the country. Everyone is aware that security in Hormozgan Province is linked to security in the entire eastern area of the country. It is natural that the presence of troublemakers in Sistan va Baluchestan and Kerman Provinces will also affect Hormozgan. The troublemakers have to be removed and the eastern frontiers have to be brought under control.

The deputy from Minab continues his speech by asking the president and the Supreme National Security Council to pay more attention to security issues in the eastern region. He then aimed his strong attacks once again against the deputies from Bandar 'Abbas and said: Who has prevented dozens of young people from entering the university system? Everyone knows how much they suffered in order to go to a university. With regard to Mr. 'Abbasi's claims that I do not know the difference between filth and cleanliness, I must remind him that as you all know, I spent 10 years studying in Najaf. I studied with great teachers, including the Imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited). In Kuwait the Imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited) gave me an official directive and I was his lawyer in Kuwait. [passage omitted on Majles ratifications]